SciLifeLab

DDLS Steering group

DDLS Steering group meeting no. 31, 2024

Date: March 11, 2024
Time: 13.00 - 16.00
Zoom: https://uu-se.zoom.us/j/62781763169

Attending members:

Oliver Billker (Umeå University, MIMS director)

Erik Kristiansson (Chalmers/ Göteborg University)

Tuuli Lappalainen (KTH, Royal Institute of technology)

Janne Lehtiö (Karolinska Institutet, §1 - 9)

Fredrik Ronquist (NRM, Swedish Museum of Natural History)

Sara Hallin (SLU, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences)

Gunilla Westergren-Thorsson (Lund University/WCMM. National SciLifeLab Committee chair)

Carolina Wählby (Uppsala University)

Other participants:

Olli Kallioniemi (Director SciLifeLab, Director of the DDLS research program), Chair of the meeting

Siv Andersson (KAW representative)

Margit Mahlapuu (chair, DDLS research area expert group in Cell and molecular biology)

Jenny Alfredsson (Head of Operations Office SciLifeLab)

Johan Rung (Head of SciLifeLab Data Centre)

Heidi Törmänen Persson (DDLS collaboration manager, Operations Office SciLifeLab)

Titti Ekegren (DDLS coordinator, Operations Office SciLifeLab)

Ulrika Wallenquist (DDLS coordinator, Operations Office SciLifeLab)

Mojgan Seraji (Collaboration manager, Operations Office SciLifeLab)

Elvan Helander (DDLS controller, Operations Office SciLifeLab)

Björn Nystedt (Head of unit Bioinformatics Long-term Support, WABI)

Jessica Lindvall (Head of Training for Training Hub)

Johan Inganni (Communications officer, Operations Office SciLifeLab, §3 - 11)

Members not attending:

Matts Karlsson (Linköping University)

Erik Lindahl (Stockholm University)

Next meeting: April 25, June 12, August 26, October 2, November 12, December 16, 2024

SciLifeLab
DDLS Steering group

Agenda 2024-03-11

All documents including presentations from the meeting can be found on NextCloud:
https://nextcloud.dc.scilifelab.se/s/brMrnwxK5Jbobpj

1	**Meeting formalities**	*Presenter:*
		Olli Kallioniemi
	Sara Hallin was chosen to attend the minutes.	
		Appendix:
	*The DDLS Steering group **approved** the previous minutes.*	*1.Previous minutes, 24-01-24*
2	**DDLS Fellow presentation**	*Presenter:*
	Nicholas Pearce, DDLS Fellow in Cell and molecular biology at Linköping University. The slide deck from Nicholas is available in the Nextcloud folder.	*Nicholas Pearce*
3	**Directors update**	*Presenter:*
	(see presentation "March 11_DDLS SG presentation, page 4 – 34 for details)	*Olli Kallioniemi*
	Peetra Magnusson, UU and Olof Emanuelsson (KTH) have been offered the Joint DDLS Research School Directors position (0,25 + 0,25 FTEs). They will start in March. *Advances in AI towards Artificial general intelligence (AGI) and Artificial Super Intelligence (ASI) – how close are we and how should we approach it?* *The overall outcome of the IAB visit is likely to be very positive and the DDLS fellows made an impression to be a strong well-functioning community. Preliminary points from IAB about Data infrastructure services:* *In the future SciLifeLab should have an increasing role in data infrastructure & service* *DDLS could be a launchpad and support for such a digital infrastructure. This would also provide a sustainability beyond the KAW funding period (for DC, DSNs, NBIS etc.), and long-term impact to the community.* *Complaints on data storage from e.g. fellows (related to SNIC-NAISS transition)* *How much SciLifeLab should be run as a physical "data center"* *Focus on transformative future things: LLMs, robotics (NBIS/WABI: how to transition to a new model from traditional bioinformatic service?)* *ELSI questions need to be addressed within DDLS*	

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DDLS Steering group

	• *Start building communities?*
	    ○ *Who will be invited to build communities? (DDLS – WASP / DDLS RAs / between DDLS RAs / DDLS – capabilities - SciLifeLab infra)?*
	    ○ *DDLS funding of 1 MSEK/yr to fund 4 communities with 250.000 SEK/yr each?*
	
	Upcoming meetings and events
	• *NBIS Artificial Intelligence and Integrative Omics Seminar Series: **Model-guided ML approaches to integrative omics analyses, Cemal Erdem.** April 19. Zoom*
	• *Annual PALS conference – June 3 - 5, 2024 in Umeå*
	• *SciLifeLab & DDLS fellows retreat, August 28-29, 2024*
	• *WASP-DDLS conference, Sept. 24-25 in Gothenburg*
	    ○ *23 September pre-conference for WASP-DDLS funded PIs and postdocs*
	• *DDLS Annual Conference 2024, Date: Nov. 13-14*
	
	DDLS research area symposia
	• *Evolution and biodiversity symposium, co-arranged with OIKOS meeting, March 12-15, 2024*
	• *Cell and molecular biology symposium, April/May 2024, Gothenburg*
	• *Evolution and biodiversity symposium, co-arranged with Swedish Systematics Association, Nov. 2024, Gothenburg*
	• *Evolution and biodiversity symposium Spring 2025: Linköping [with Evolution in Sweden]*
	• *Evolution and biodiversity symposium Fall 2025: Umeå?*	

4	**Role and composition of Research Areas experts' group** *The description of the role and composition of the Research Area experts' groups has been updated. Some points have been emphasized, such as:* • *Members of the DDLS research area specific expert group are established experts in the DDLS field of interest and expected to support the broad national role of DDLS.* • *Term of office is 2 years and a member can be re-nominated typically once* • *Level of engagement of the experts varies but the members are encouraged to be pro-active in developing their roles, The overall level of engagement is not expected to exceed 5% There is no compensation for this assignment.* • *The main role of a DDLS research area specific expert group is to advice and to engage the national community within their Research area.* *A generic call for interest will be opened centrally to add new members to the Research area experts' groups if needed. The EoI's will be directed to the RA-leads to handle the nominations. This will be announced as a SciLifeLab news*	*Presenter: Olli Kallioniemi* ***Appendix:*** ***4.*** *Assignment description DDLS RA expert group*

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DDLS Steering group

	item. All RA-leads express positivity to this idea.	
5	**Update from DDLS program office** *(see presentation "March 11_DDLS SG presentation, page 40 – 45 for details)* *Presentation and "light version" summary of the DDLS Operational planning for phase II.* *A first draft available for input can be found here:* *https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ybCB2r--EQeEn1vIzObrBAt3k_a4lrXvIphaxp1IfIo/edit?usp=sharing* *Work is ongoing to prepare visual guidelines and refine the visual identity for the DDLS program. One challenge is that DDLS Fellows are usually not affiliating themselves with the program in public material and websites. Hence, DDLS is often expressed only as a funding source.* *The DDLS Steering group comments that even if we request researchers to always include the full DDLS program name "SciLifeLab and Wallenberg National program for Data Driven Life Science" that will not be done and therefore it would be better to create a recognizable graphical item (logo) known as DDLS to make the program visible. The full name, SciLifeLab logo and KAW logo should also be included in a first or last slide in a presentation, but not on every slide.* *A brief overview slide about the DDLS program content was requested by the DDLS SG. This one slide with program content and examples of a graphical item for DDLS will be presented on the next DDLS SG meeting.*	*Presenter:* *Heidi T. Persson,* *Johan Inganni*
6	**Update from Data centre / Instruction for the Data Science Nodes** *(se presentation "March 11_DDLS SG presentation, page 47 – 56 for details)* *The process for DC projects involving DSN staff was discussed.* *DC staff at DSNs work on developing national data services of high relevance for the research area of the DSN. Services have a long term commitment for for a production phase with maintenance and support also provided by the node staff, together with additional resources allocated by DC and/or the host organization for the node. Service development projects are not meant to support projects that are tailored to individual PI-driven projects, but ideally to build novel large-scale national services that also benefit the larger community. The DDLS SG has oversight over the nodes, and the Research Area expert group has an important role as domain experts and links to their respective communities.* <u>*Comments from DDLS SG:*</u> • *The major effort of the DSNs will be towards major services with long term commitment for maintenance and support. The nodes should also have the flexibility to engage with smaller and shorter tasks supporting*	*Presenter:* *Johan Rung*

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DDLS Steering group

	the needs of the research community. DSNs should regularly meet research area expert groups and DDLS SG to report on progress and update on activities and receive feedback. • *Community consultations should have a strong bearing on the service development carried out by the DSNs by providing needs assessments. These will be conducted in coordination between the node management, Data Centre and the Research Area expert group, and collect ideas, needs, requirements and suggestions. The format of community consultations should be aligned between all nodes.* • *Feasibility of service suggestions should be done before prioritization in most cases, but sometimes the feasibility asessment is complex and then the prioritizations should be done first.* • *DC and the Data Science Node management jointly prepare material for the DDLS SG for high-level direction of service development at the Data Science Node, and regularly report the progress.* • *Principles of prioritization and handling of CoI issues should be clarified.* *Johan Rung will include these comments in the preparation of an updated instruction for DSNs to be presented at the next DDLS SG.*	
7	**Advanced bioinformatics support (WABI): Brief update and summary 2023** *(see presentation "March 11_DDLS SG presentation, page 57 – 73 for details)* *Presentation of the WABI support model and composition of the Proposals evaluation committee. Eight new recruitments are now in place at the DSN's and Cryo-Em and 19 new projects was approved during year 2023 giving approx. 80 active projects in total.* *The NBIS Consultation and training efforts equal to 12 full-time employees in 2023. An overview of the applicants in the call for DDLS PhD projects shows that 30% of the applicants have been affiliated with NBIS (last 3 years) and also shows that this call reached a new part of the community researchers.* *DDLS should be acknowledged in all WABI projects and publications. A specific statement on how to acknowledge that support will be revised.*	*Presenter:* *Björn Nystedt*
8	**Update from DDLS Fellow recruitment phase 2** • *Two fellow candidates have accepted position offers (Gothenburg univ – Epidemiology & biology of infection and Linköping univ – Precision medicine & diagnostics)* • *One position has been offered in Umeå and the second position will be re-announced* • *Gothenburg univ- Precision medicine & diagnostics is lagging behind due to a CoI of one of the evaluators.* • *A recruitment round 2.5 will be planned for*	*Presenters:* *DDLS recruitments WG*

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![SciLifeLab logo]

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9	**Update on PhD project calls** *(see presentation "March 11_DDLS SG presentation, page 75 – 83 for details)* *227 applications were received for academic DDLS PhD projects with most applications arising from the Precision medicine area (approx. 45%). The large number of PMD applications brings up issues of how to achieve a balance between the research areas. A system with accepting different number of applications from different research areas may be applied to achieve a balance in acceptance ratio.* *Since many DDLS SG members were applicants, DDLS SG will not be involved in the review process or decisions.* *The final decision will be made by the SciLifeLab board.* *It should be clearly stated on the web that DDLS SG takes no part in evaluations and decisions.* *<u>Some lessons from the first call towards future PhD student announcements</u>* • *Need stricter definition of data-driveness in the future PhD calls to avoid the large number of otherwise high-quality applications that were just not ideal for this call* • *Funded scientists cannot apply until 2 years later?* • *Clearer commitment to the RS and teaching/training to be expected* • *Co-supervisor role to be defined* • *How to maintain an appropriate balance between the RAs* • *Prioritization of applications before international review* • *Industrial applications, how to handle the next steps? Discussion with KAW indicated that they wish these students to be (permanent) employees of the companies (as is the case in e.g. WASP). This may not always be easy to achieve for life science SMEs.* • *Need the call text for PhD student recruitment and instructions for subsequent steps*	*Presenter:* *Olli Kallioniemi*
10	**Update from Research areas** ***Evolution and biodiversity*** • *Fourth mini-symposium in conjunction with Nordic OIKOS meeting in Lund, March 12-15* • *Fifth mini-symposium in conjunction with systematics association mtg in Gothenburg, fall 2024* • *Sixth mini-symposium in conjunction with Evolution in Sweden mtg in Linköping in spring 2025* • *DSN node is planning for a community survey to explore prioritization of tasks for the infrastructure work of the node*	*Presenters:* *RA-leads*

Next meeting: April 25, June 12, August 26, October 2, November 12, December 16, 2024

SciLifeLab
DDLS Steering group

	Cell and molecular biology
	(see presentation "March 11_DDLS SG presentation, page 85 for details)
	• *The community survey is completed and more than 500 recipients opened the survey link; 22 surveys were completed*
	• *The next step will be a webinar to introduce the request for National Service Need Proposals; the call opens 1-30 April 2024*
	• *The Cell and molecular biology – DDLS symposium is scheduled April 25 – 26, 2024 in Gothenburg, lunch to lunch*
	
	Epidemiology and biology of infection
	• *Mini-symposiums*
	    ○ *Summer 2024: focus on environmental epidemiology*
	    ○ *Autumn 2024: "Pathogen-host interactions"*
	    ○ *Spring 2025: focus on infectious disease surveillance and modelling*
	
	Infection biology across scales – EMBL-SciLifeLab workshop on infection – is moved to February 2024 (the Swedish EMBL node in Umeå)	

11	**Other issues** *No further issues.* *The chairman thanked all participants for a nice meeting!*	*Presenter:* *Olli Kallioniemi*

Olli Kallioniemi, chair of the meeting

Sara Hallin, Attending minutes

Next meeting: April 25, June 12, August 26, October 2, November 12, December 16, 2024

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